

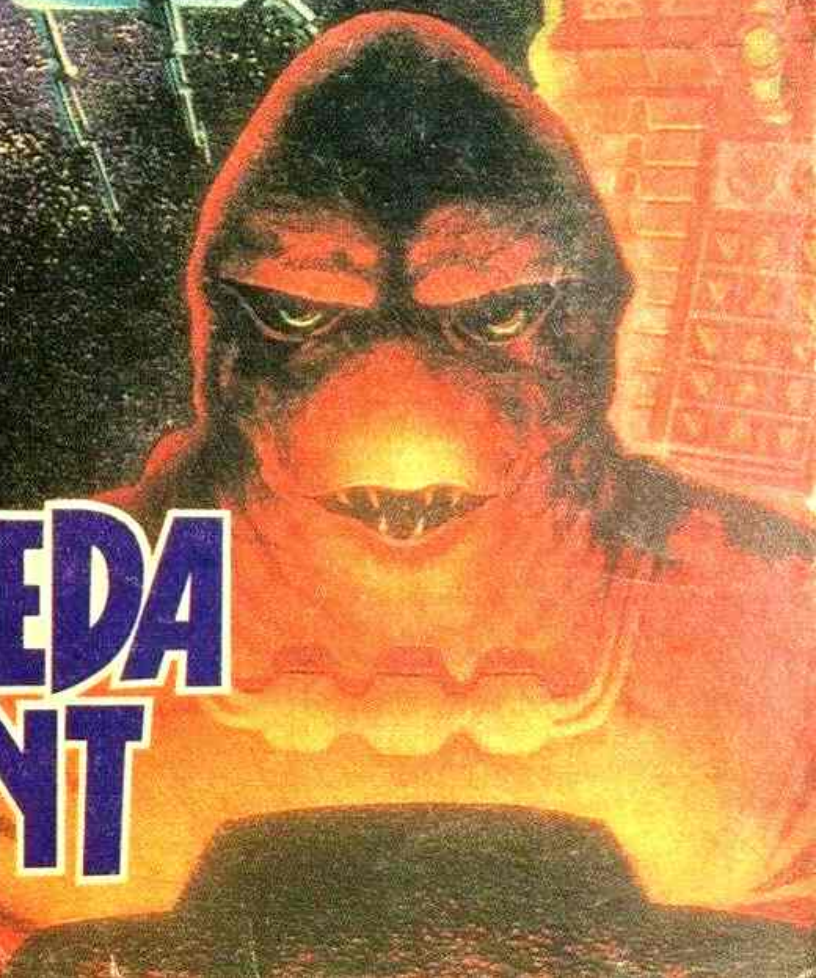
# STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 47

14p




## THE ANDROMEDA INCIDENT





# STARBLAZER



THE FIRST INTERGALACTIC WAR BETWEEN THE EARTH FEDERATION AND THE ANDROMEDAN EMPIRE ENDED IN AN UNEASY TRUCE. IN THE LAST MONTHS OF THE WAR THE NOTED EARTH SCIENTIST PROFESSOR BEN HERSCHEL INVENTED THE 'HERSCHEL SHIELD' ARRAY OF ELECTROMAGNETIC FORCE FIELDS. AN ANDROMEDAN RAIDING FORCE CAPTURED HERSCHEL'S SPACESHIP AND HE WAS MADE A PRISONER OF THE EMPIRE. THE ANDROMEDAN SUPREME COMMANDER, ALGIS, WHO HAD BEEN CAPTURED WAS TO BE EXCHANGED FOR HERSCHEL.

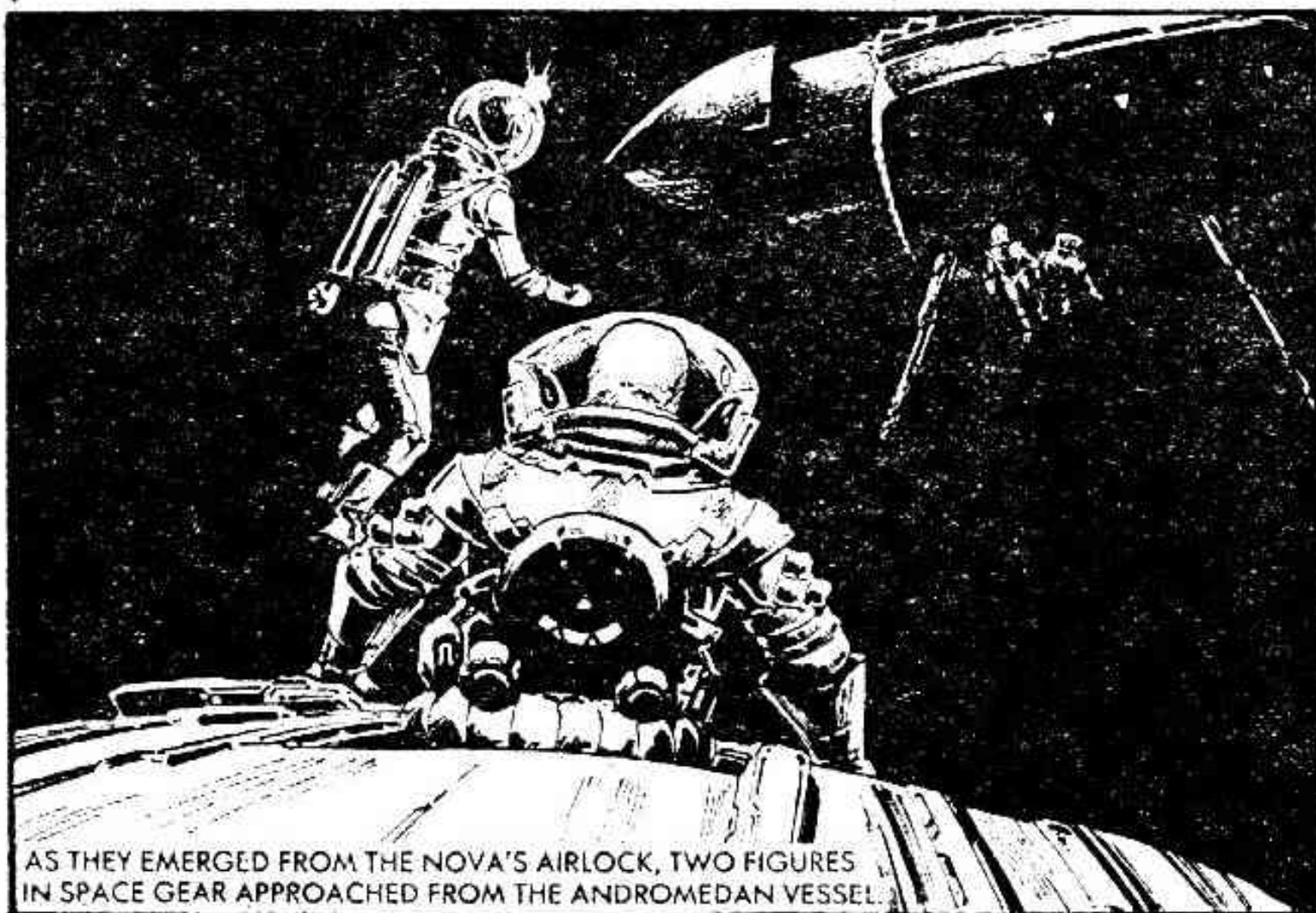
# THE ANDROMEDA INCIDENT

ONE SHIP FROM EACH SIDE MET IN EMPTY SPACE, MID-WAY BETWEEN THE TWO GALAXIES. FEDERATION AGENT JOHN QUINN UNDERTOOK THE MISSION ALONE IN HIS SCOUT SHIP NOVA.

QUINN TO ANDROMEDA VESSEL . . . I AM COMING ACROSS WITH THE PRISONER.







AS THEY EMERGED FROM THE NOVA'S AIRLOCK, TWO FIGURES  
IN SPACE GEAR APPROACHED FROM THE ANDROMEDAN VESSEL.

THE TWO SIDES FACED EACH OTHER.



GO ON ALGIS, GET MOVING. I CAN'T  
SAY IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE MEETING  
YOU.

AS SOON AS HERSCHEL REACHED HIM, QUINN WASTED NO TIME IN HEADING BACK TO NOVA.

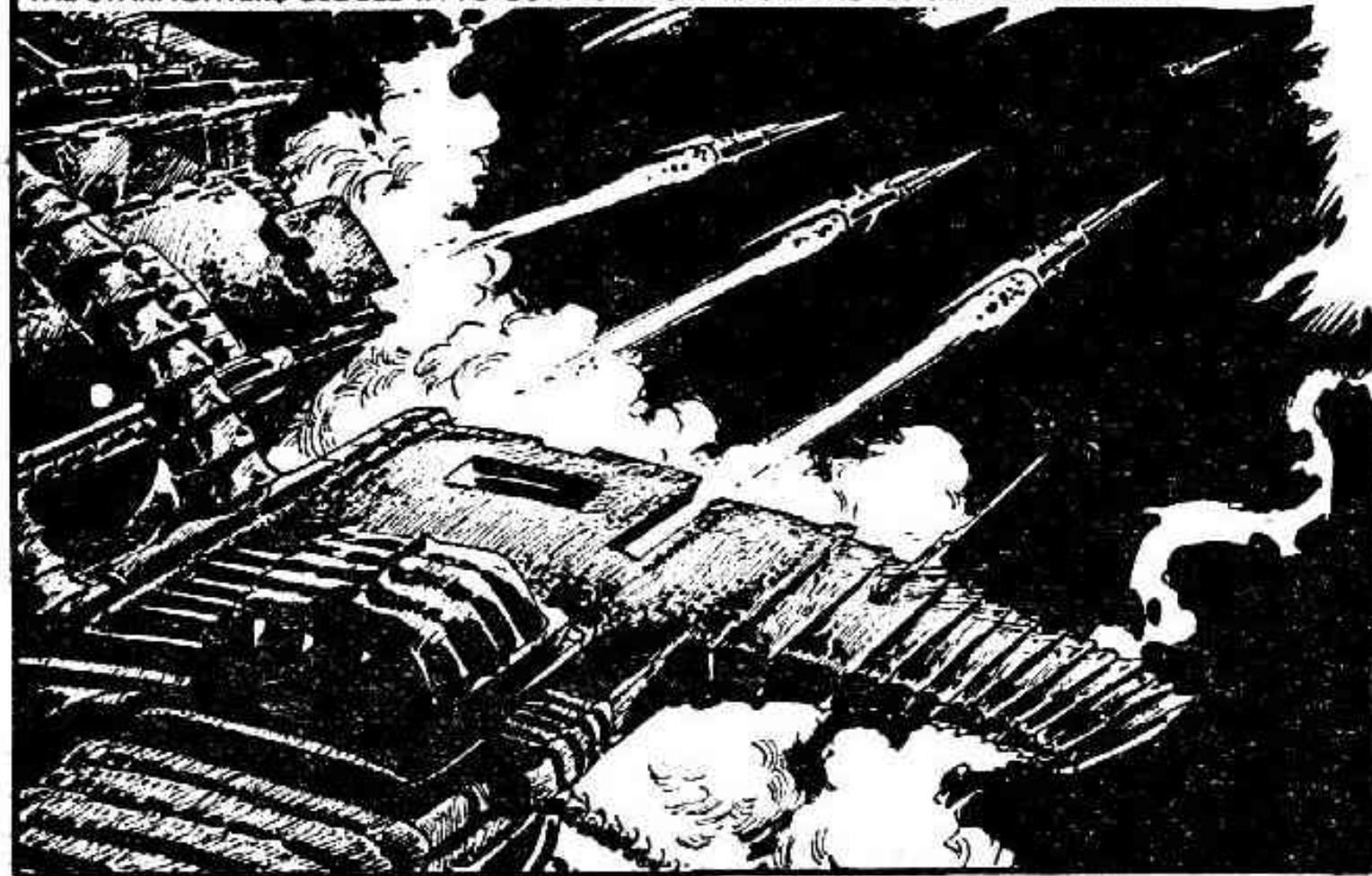


A MIGHTY, ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP APPEARED FROM NOWHERE.





THE STARFIGHTERS CLOSED IN TO CUT NOVA OFF FROM THE FEDERATION GALAXY.

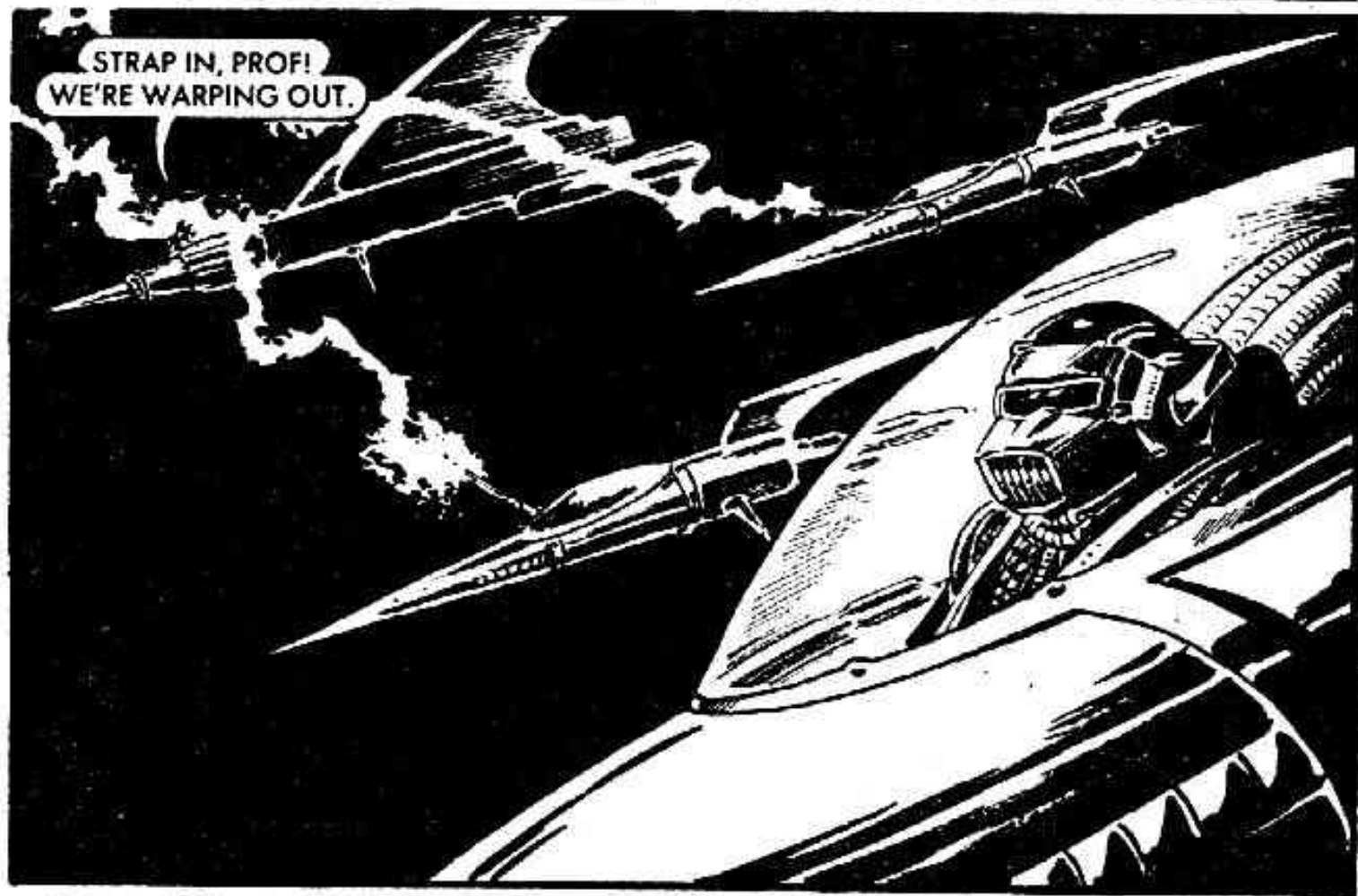






IT'S NO GOOD! THE PHOTON CANNON ARE NEUTRALISED. THE WARSHIP MUST BE GENERATING ONE OF YOUR SHIELDS, HERSCHEL.

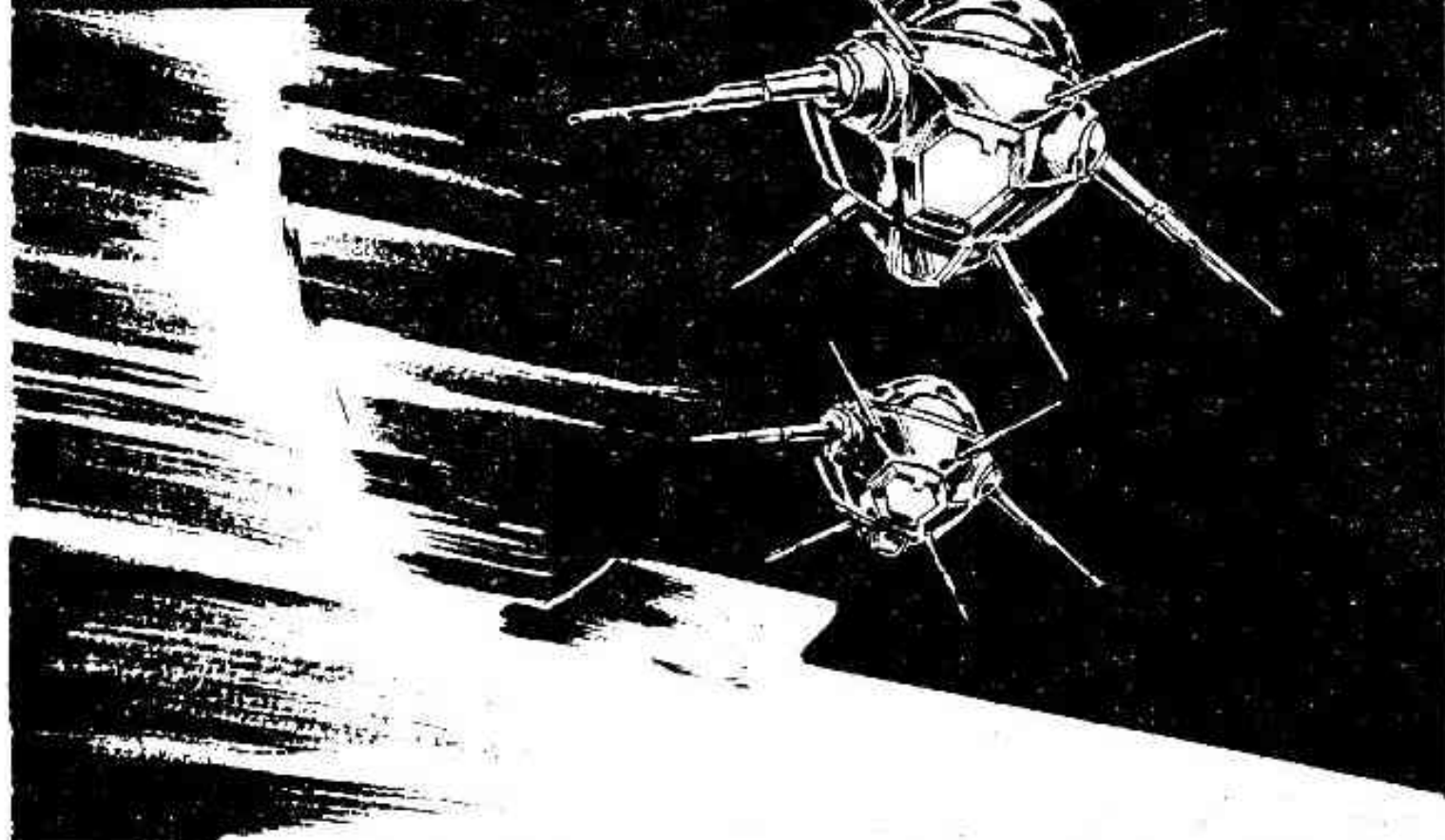
STRAP IN, PROF!  
WE'RE WARPING OUT.



WE'VE GOT THE EDGE ON THE WARSHIP FOR ACCELERATION. IF WE CAN KEEP OFF THE STAR-FIGHTERS FOR LONG ENOUGH, WE MAY BE ABLE TO LOSE THEM IN THAT STAR CLUSTER AHEAD.



QUINN LAUNCHED TWO OF THE SHIP'S ROVERS—  
REMOTE ORDNANCE VEHICLE ELIMINATION  
ROBOTS—DESIGNED TO SEEK OUT ALIEN CRAFT  
AND ENGAGE THEM IN BATTLE.



ALTHOUGH THE ROVERS' CANNON WERE NEUTRALISED, THEY SET OUT ON COLLISION COURSES.

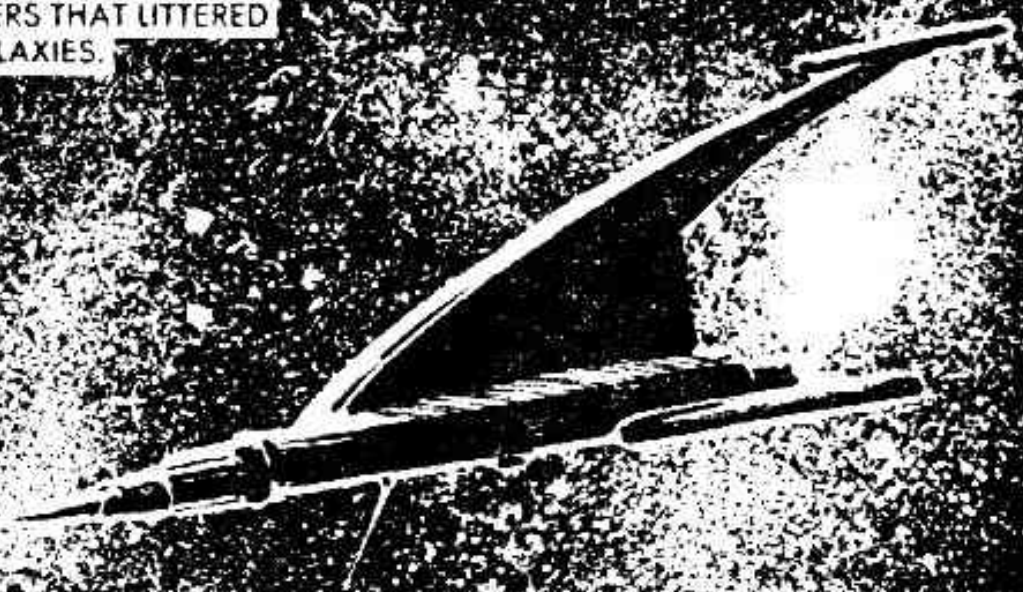




THE SECOND ROVER'S BLOWN UP...  
JUST ONE STARFIGHTER REMAINING.


I CAN LOSE HIM  
IN THE STAR CLUSTER.

THE NOVA PLUNGED INTO NGC403—ONE OF THE  
INNUMERABLE STAR CLUSTERS THAT LITTERED  
EMPTY SPACE BETWEEN GALAXIES.



I'M NOT SURE... WE'RE LOSING  
CONTROL... THE SHIP IS CAUGHT  
IN SOME KIND OF IMMENSE GRAVITY  
FIELD...

WHAT'S WRONG?

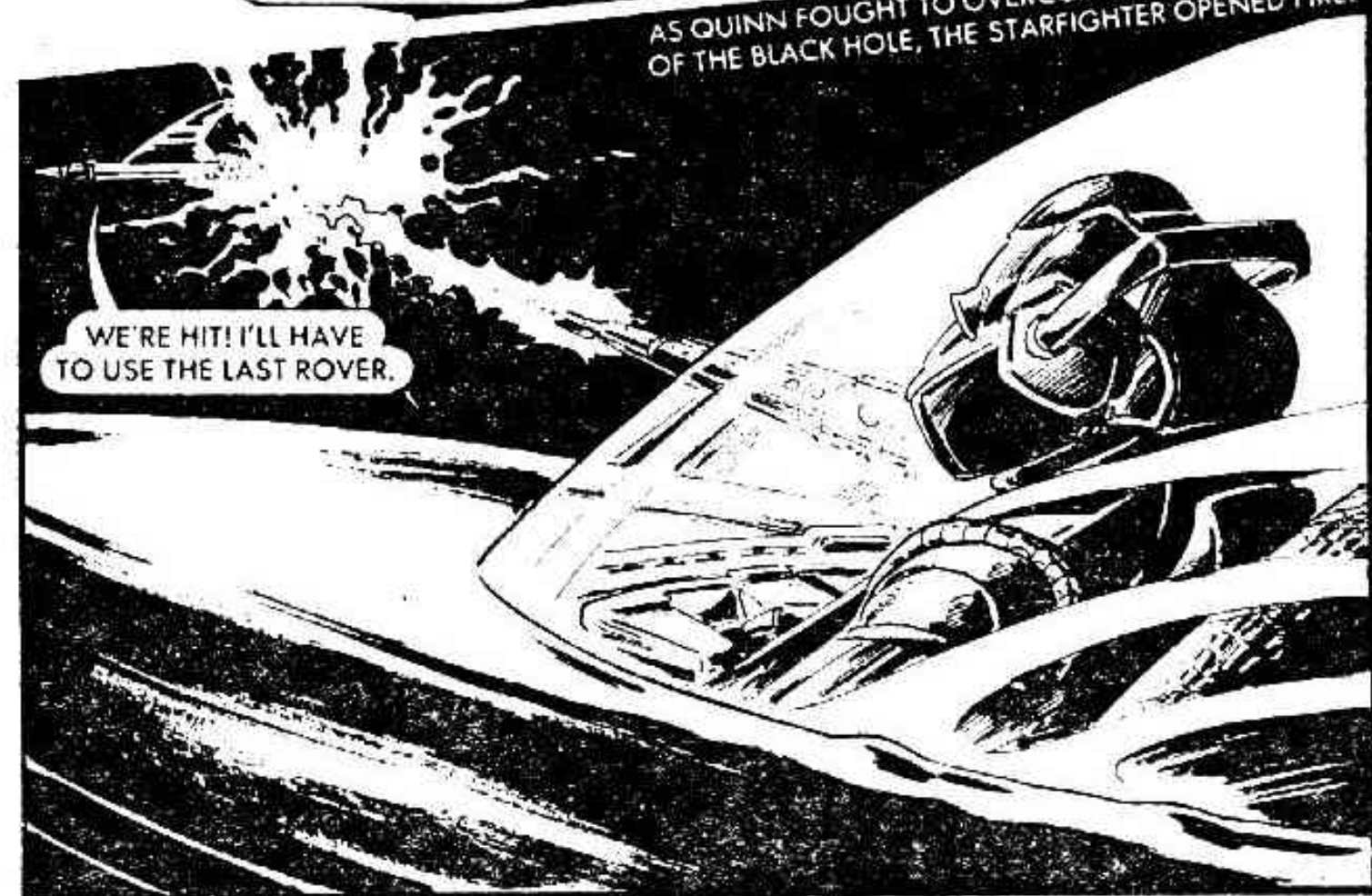


THERE MUST BE A BLACK HOLE AT THE CENTRE OF THE STAR CLUSTER... AND WE'RE BEING PULLED RIGHT INTO IT!

THE STARFIGHTER HAS CAUGHT US UP.

THE SHIP IS STILL NOT RESPONDING!

AS QUINN FOUGHT TO OVERCOME THE DEADLY PULL OF THE BLACK HOLE, THE STARFIGHTER OPENED FIRE.



WE'RE HIT! I'LL HAVE TO USE THE LAST ROVER.





ENGINE'S DEAD.  
WE'RE IN A SPIN.

THE NOVA DRIFTED TOWARDS THE CENTRE OF THE CLUSTER.

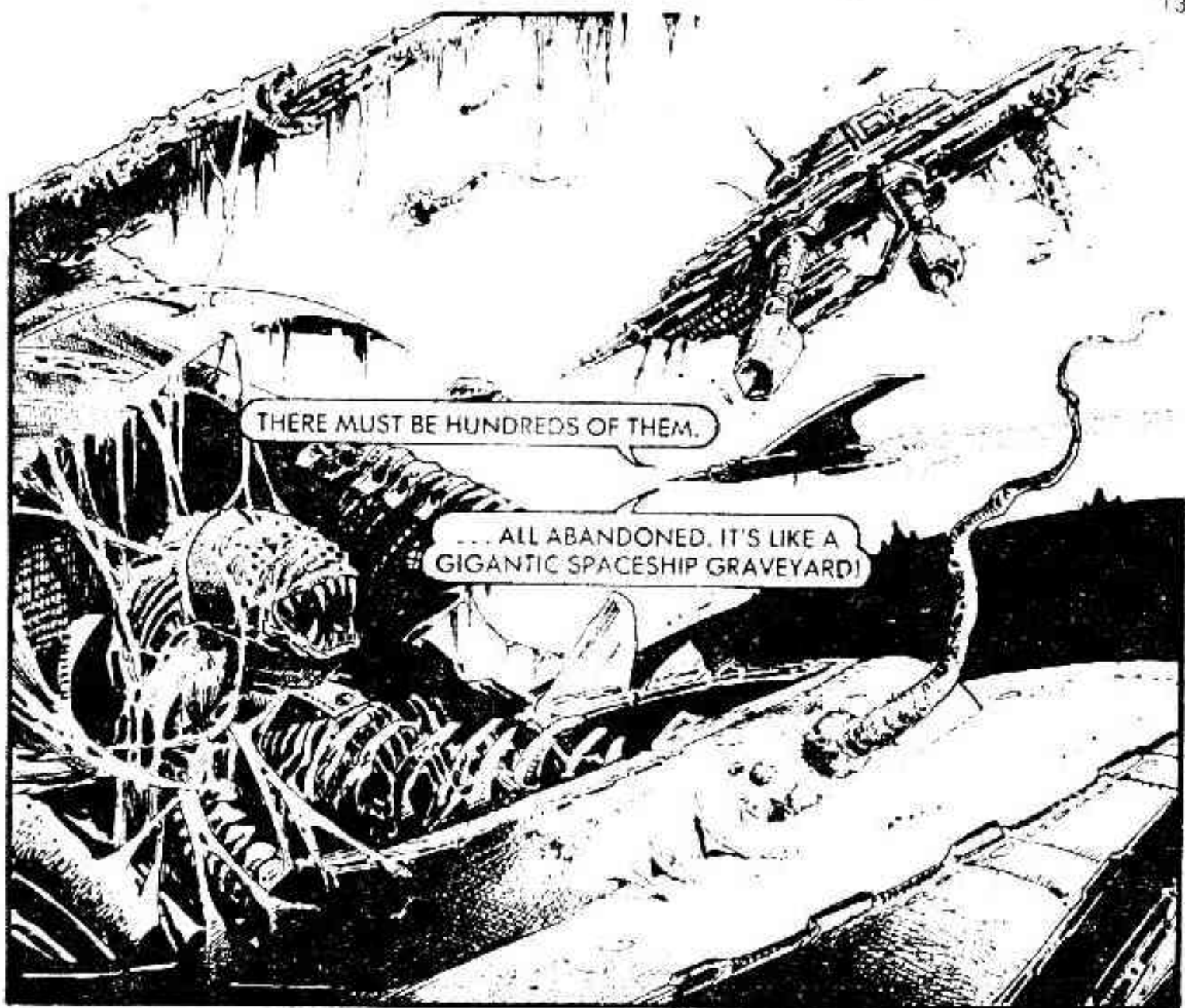


LOOK OUT THERE . . .



IT'S INCREDIBLE... A SKY FULL  
OF DERELICT ALIEN SPACECRAFT!





AS THE NOVA DRIFTED IN AMONGST THE ALIEN SHIPS, QUINN AND HERSHEL PREPARED TO LEAVE THE SHIP.

WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THE SHIP BEFORE THE ANDROMEDANS TURN UP. GO AHEAD, I'LL JOIN YOU IN A MOMENT.



WHAT IS IT?

PERSONAL BATTLE ROBOT —CODE-NAME MOBCOM. IT'S A MOBILE FIGHTING COMPUTER AND VERY POWERFUL. WITH ONLY MY HANDGUN BETWEEN US, WE'RE GOING TO NEED HIM IF THE ANDROMEDANS CATCH UP WITH US.

QUINN PULLED THE ROBOT FREE OF THE SHIP AND ACTIVATED THE POWER PACK.



THE ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP HAD REACHED THE EDGE OF THE STAR CLUSTER.

WE CAN GO NO FARTHER, COMMANDER ALGIS,  
OR WE WILL BE TORN APART IN THE GRAVITY  
FIELD.

SEND IN STAR TROOPS!  
I WANT QUINN CAPTURED!

A DERELICT SPACECRAFT CARRIER— WE MAY BE  
SAFE INSIDE THERE FOR A WHILE. IT WILL TAKE  
THE ANDROMEDANS WEEKS TO SEARCH ALL  
THESE CRAFT.



AS THEY LANDED, A SUDDEN EXPLOSION BLOSSOMED.

WHAT WAS THAT?

THE ANDROMEDANS HAVE FOUND  
THE NOVA. I BOOBY-TRAPPED HER  
NUCLEAR PILE. THE ENTIRE SHIP BLEW  
UP WHEN THEY BOARDED HER.





THEY PASSED THROUGH THE AIRLOCK INTO THE CRUISER'S CONTROL ROOM.

THERE'S A BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE.  
THE SHIP'S POWER PLANT MUST BE  
INTACT.




QUINN BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR A WAY DOWN INTO THE REST OF THE SHIP.

THERE MUST BE A HATCH BEHIND  
ALL THIS JUNK SOMEWHERE.

WHAT ARE THESE BUTTONS FOR?



DON'T TOUCH... TOO LATE! THAT'S THE  
LANDING BEAMS. THE ANDROMEDANS WILL SEE  
THEM!



THAT'S THEM DE-ACTIVATED.

ALGIS HAD SEEN THE LANDING BEAMS.

COMMANDER, WE HAVE  
PICKED UP LANDING SIGNALS  
OF SOME KIND FROM THE  
CLUSTER.

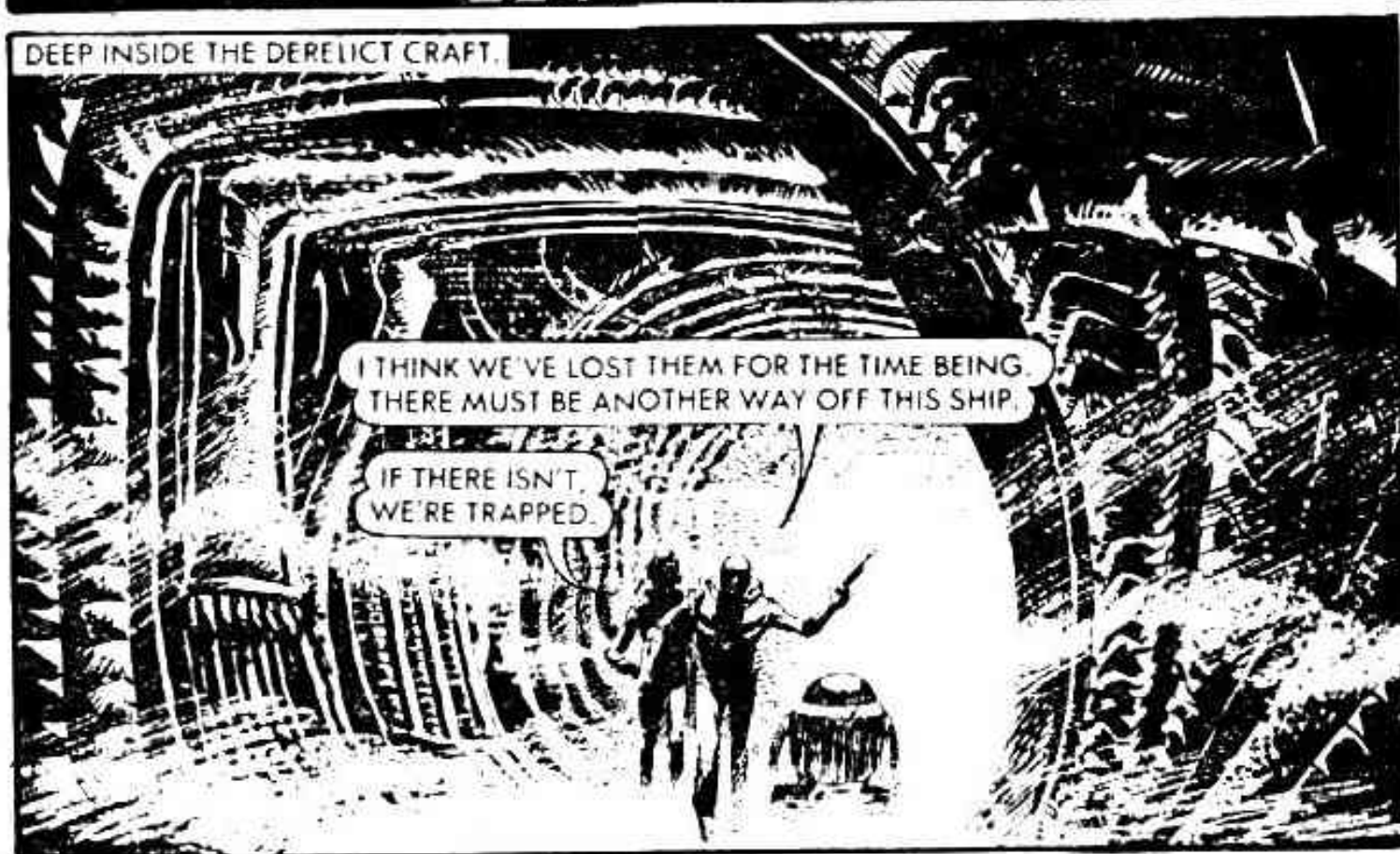
SEND IN YOUR MEN.

THERE ISN'T TIME TO GET CLEAR.  
COME ON, WE'LL HAVE TO TRY AND  
HIDE INSIDE THE SHIP.





THEY'VE GONE DOWN INTO THE SHIP— GET AFTER THEM! DIRECT NUMBER TWO SQUAD TO BREAK INTO THIS HULK FROM THE OTHER SIDE.



DEEP INSIDE THE DERELICT CRAFT.

I THINK WE'VE LOST THEM FOR THE TIME BEING. THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY OFF THIS SHIP.

IF THERE ISN'T, WE'RE TRAPPED.

BUT IT WAS THE ANDROMEDANS WHO HAD FOUND ANOTHER WAY IN.

MOBCOM, OPEN FIRE!

IN HERE, QUICK.  
COVER US, MOBCOM.





AS SOON AS THEY WERE THROUGH THE HATCHWAY, QUINN JAMMED THE LOCK MECHANISM.



THAT SHOULD KEEP THEM OUT FOR A WHILE.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?



THAT LOOKS LIKE A CONTROL PANEL OF SOME KIND.

IT SEEMS TO BE SOME SORT OF SHORT RANGE TRANSMITTER. IT'S ALREADY LOCKED ONTO SOMETHING... WHAT?




SECONDS LATER, THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN A DIFFERENT ROOM.





QUINN ACTIVATED ONE OF THE WALL SCREENS AND TURNED TO HERSHEL IN DISBELIEF.



WE'RE NOT JUST IN ANOTHER ROOM,  
PROF... WE'VE JUMPED CLEAR  
ACROSS SPACE TO THE OTHER SIDE  
OF THE CLUSTER!


IT'S A PARTICLE TRANSMITTER! IT  
MUST HAVE BEEN USED TO  
TRANSMIT CREW AND MATERIALS  
BETWEEN SHIPS.



YOU MEAN WE'RE ON ANOTHER SHIP  
LIKE THE FIRST—BUILT BY THE SAME  
ALIEN RACE?

YES! THEY WERE TRAPPED IN THE  
GRAVITY FIELD.

QUINN TURNED OFF THE POWER TO PREVENT THE  
ANDROMEDANS FOLLOWING THEM THROUGH  
THE TRANSMITTER, THEN THEY WENT IN  
SEARCH OF THE SHIP'S CONTROL TOWER.



LOOK OUT THERE. A SHUTTLE CRAFT OF  
SOME KIND OUT ON THE LANDING PAD.

WAIT HERE WHILE I CHECK OUT THOSE  
SHUTTLES. IF ONE OF THEM WORKS,  
WE COULD TRY TO GET CLEAR OF HERE.



AS SOON AS HE GOT OUTSIDE, QUINN OPENED UP HIS PRIVATE RADIO LINK TO MOBCOM.

CODE HYDRA, MOBCOM.  
WATCH OUT FOR TROUBLE.

AFFIRMATIVE.



IN THE ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP.

MY TROOPS REPORT THAT THE  
EARTHMAN CANNOT BE FOUND.  
THEY ARE NO LONGER ABOARD THE  
ALIEN CRUISER.

TELL YOUR TROOPS TO CONTINUE  
THE SEARCH. WE MUST WAIT FOR  
ANOTHER SIGNAL.



QUINN DID NOT TAKE LONG TO CHECK OUT THE SHUTTLECRAFT.

THE DRIVE CELLS ARE ALL EXHAUSTED, PROF, IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN RECHARGE THEM?

THERE WILL NO LONGER BE ANY NEED, QUINN—YOU ARE TOO LATE . . .

MOBCOM HERE. HERSCHEL HAS JUST ATTEMPTED TO SET OFF THE LANDING SIGNALS AGAIN. I HAVE DESTROYED THE CONTROLS, HE . . .

QUINN RAN BACK TO THE CONTROL TOWER AND LET HIMSELF INTO THE AIRLOCK.





MOBCOM'S POWER-PACK HAS BEEN  
BLASTED . . . BUT HOW?



LIKE THIS, EARTHMAN!



A CHEST BLASTER... YOU'RE AN ANDROID!

YES, SUBSTITUTED BY THE  
ANDROMEDANS TO  
ACCOMPANY YOU BACK TO  
EARTH.



DID YOU REALLY THINK WE WOULD  
EVER RETURN THE REAL HERSCHEL? WE  
HAVE THE SECRET OF THE  
NEUTRALISING SHIELD, AND I WAS TO  
ACCOMPANY YOU TO EARTH IN ORDER  
TO DESTROY YOUR SHIELD.



WHERE IS THE REAL HERSCHEL?

STILL ABOARD THE WARSHIP. YOU WILL BE  
TAKEN THERE AND AN ANDROID COPY WILL  
BE MADE OF YOU. THEN WE SHALL GO TO  
EARTH... AND FINISH YOU FOR GOOD.









QUINN HURLED HIMSELF FROM THE PLATFORM.





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THE PARTICLE TRANSMITTER WENT INTO OVERLOAD  
AND THE ANDROID WAS TORN APART IN ITS BEAM.



GONE . . . TRANSMITTED INTO PIECES  
AND SCATTERED THROUGH SPACE.  
NOW, BACK TO THE CONTROL  
TOWER.




THE POWER PACK'S COMPLETELY  
BURNT OUT . . . THERE MUST BE  
SOMETHING I CAN USE ABOARD THIS  
HULK TO FIX IT.




WHILST QUINN CARRIED OUT A SYSTEMATIC SEARCH OF THE ALIEN VESSEL, THE ANDROMEDAN TROOPS WERE DRAWING CLOSER.







THIS LOOKS LIKE THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE. I WONDER...



A SUB-SPACE TRANSMITTER! STILL WORKING, TOO... LET'S SEE IF I CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO RECORD A MESSAGE.

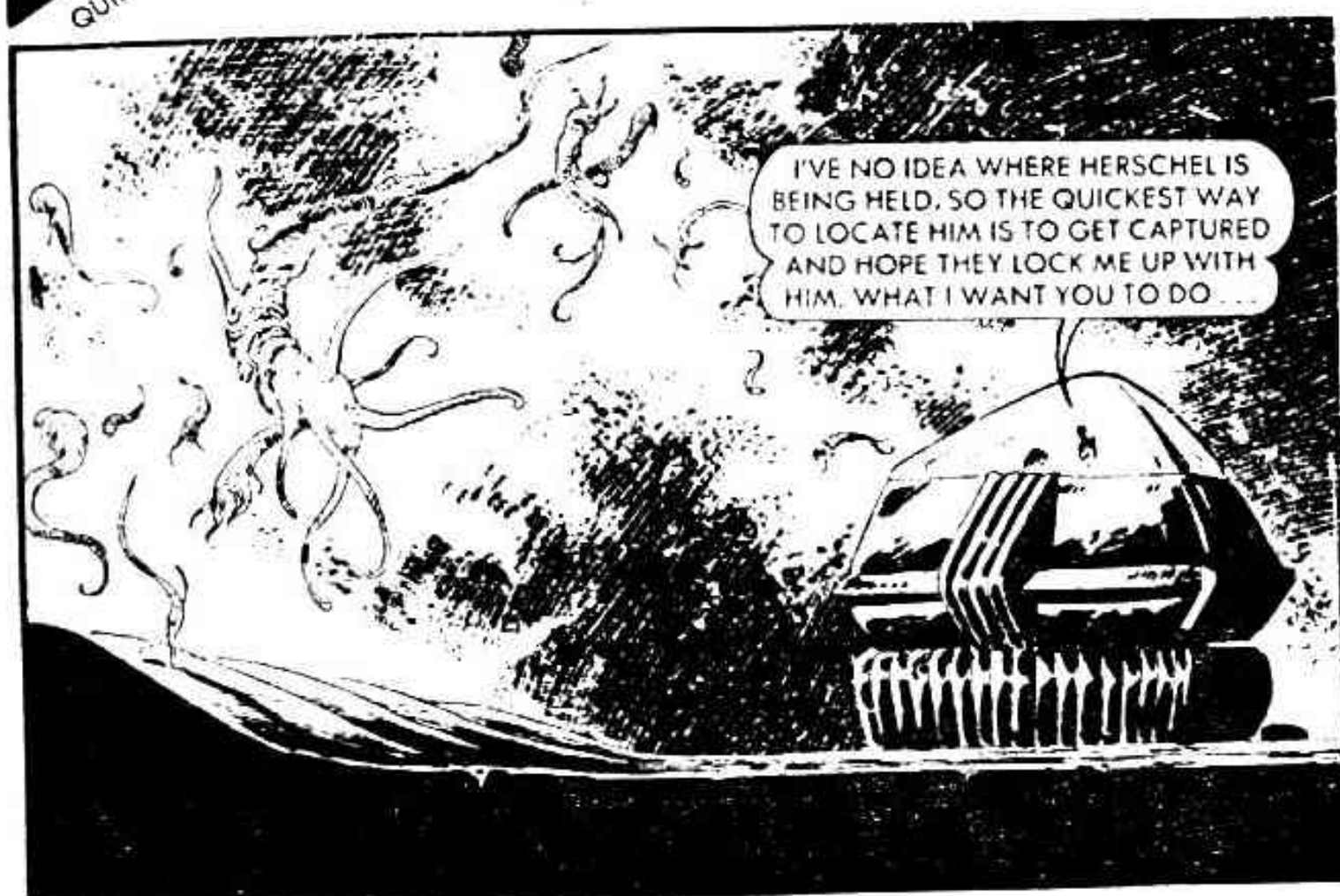
QUINN FED HIS MESSAGE INTO THE DIGITAL MEMORY BANK.

NOW IT SHOULD CONTINUE TO BROADCAST ON AUTOMATIC.

QUINN CONTINUED SEARCHING.













SUPREME COMMANDER ...  
SQUAD NINE REPORTS THAT THE  
EARTHMAN HAS BEEN SIGHTED.  
THEY ARE GIVING CHASE.

I WANT QUINN  
TAKEN ALIVE.



ONE DOWN ... BUT IT CAN'T BE LONG  
NOW.







QUINN WAS CARRIED TO THE ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP.



WHEN HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS HE FOUND HIMSELF IN THE CONTROL CENTRE.

SO WE MEET ONCE MORE, QUINN.  
ONLY THIS TIME OUR ROLES ARE  
REVERSED.

HOW EXTREMELY UNPLEASANT  
TO SEE YOU AGAIN, ALGIS.



YOU WILL LEARN TO CURB YOUR TONGUE, EARTHMAN. NOW, WHERE IS HERSCHEL AND THAT AMUSING LITTLE ROBOT OF YOURS?

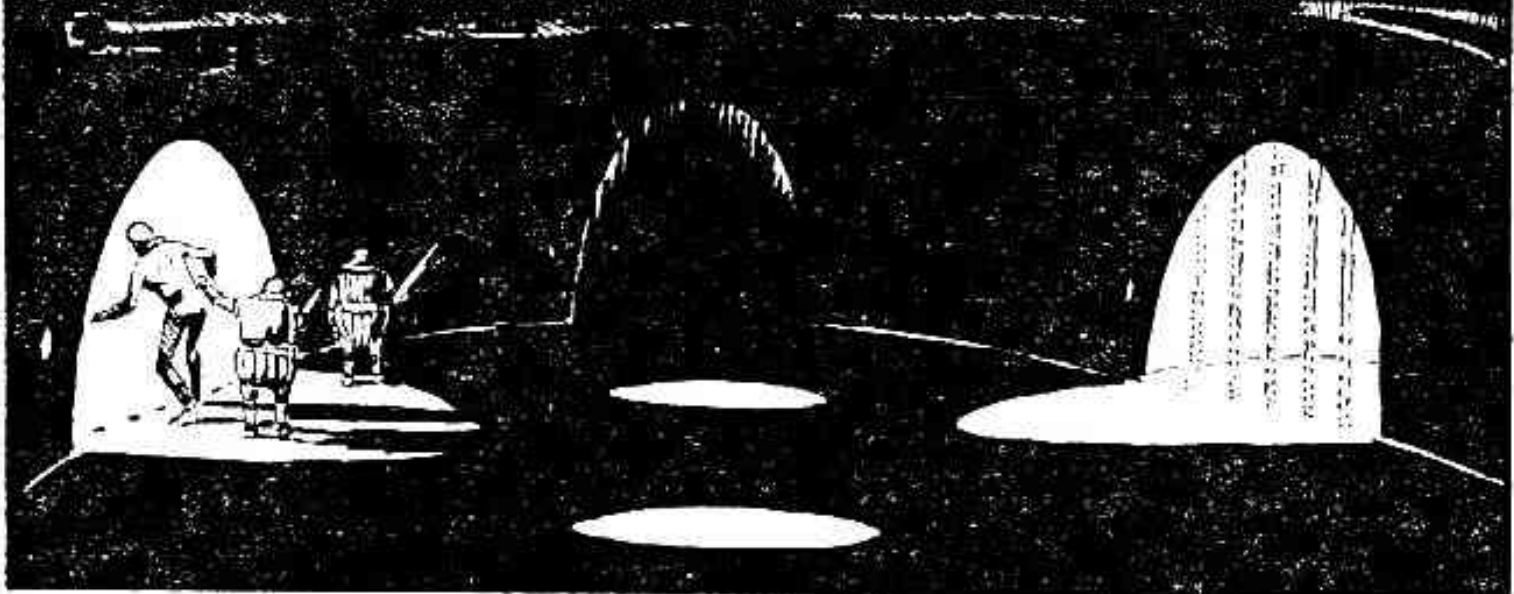
THAT AMUSING LITTLE ROBOT AS YOU CALL IT IS DESTROYED, AND SO IS HERSCHEL... IF IT IS YOUR AMUSING LITTLE ANDROID YOU ARE REFERRING TO.

WHERE'S THE REAL HERSCHEL, YOU MURDERER?

YOU WILL DIE VERY SLOWLY FOR THAT, EARTHMAN. TAKE HIM AWAY.



QUINN WAS TAKEN TO A SECURITY DECK AND THROWN INTO ONE OF THE CELLS.



ONE OF THE GUARDS SWITCHED ON A CONTROL ON THE WALL AND THE CELL DOORWAY LIT UP.





QUINN WAITED UNTIL THE GUARDS HAD GONE, THEN THREW HIMSELF AT THE DOORWAY . . .


VERY EFFECTIVE.

HELLO THERE. CAN YOU HEAR ME?

BEN HERSCHEL! IT'S  
JOHN QUINN HERE. THE  
FEDERATION SENT ME  
TO EXCHANGE YOU FOR  
ALGIS.

I SAW THE DOUBLE-CROSS TAKE PLACE. I  
WAS BEING FORCED TO WORK ON THE  
NEW NEUTRALISING SHIELD AT THE TIME.  
THEY DRAGGED ME OFF IT BEFORE I COULD  
SABOTAGE IT TO HELP YOU.

QUINN TOOK A SMALL PENCIL TRANSMITTER FROM HIS SPACE BOOT.



WHAT DO YOU RECKON  
IS GOING TO HAPPEN NOW?


THEY'LL TAKE US  
BACK TO THEIR GALAXY.

AND THEY'LL MAKE ANDROID  
DUPLICATES OF US BOTH. DON'T  
WORRY, WE'RE NOT BEATEN YET.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

QUINN SWITCHED ON HIS MINIATURE TRANSMITTER.



QUINN TO MOBCOM. QUINN TO  
MOBCOM, ARE YOU RECEIVING ME?



IN THE ALIEN CRUISER, MOBCOM RECEIVED THE TRANSMISSION ON HIS BUILT-IN RADIO.

AFFIRMATIVE. I  
AM RECEIVING YOU.

GOOD. LOCK ONTO  
MY TRANSMISSION...



QUINN FELT THE DECK TREMBLE SLIGHTLY.

WHAT WAS THAT?

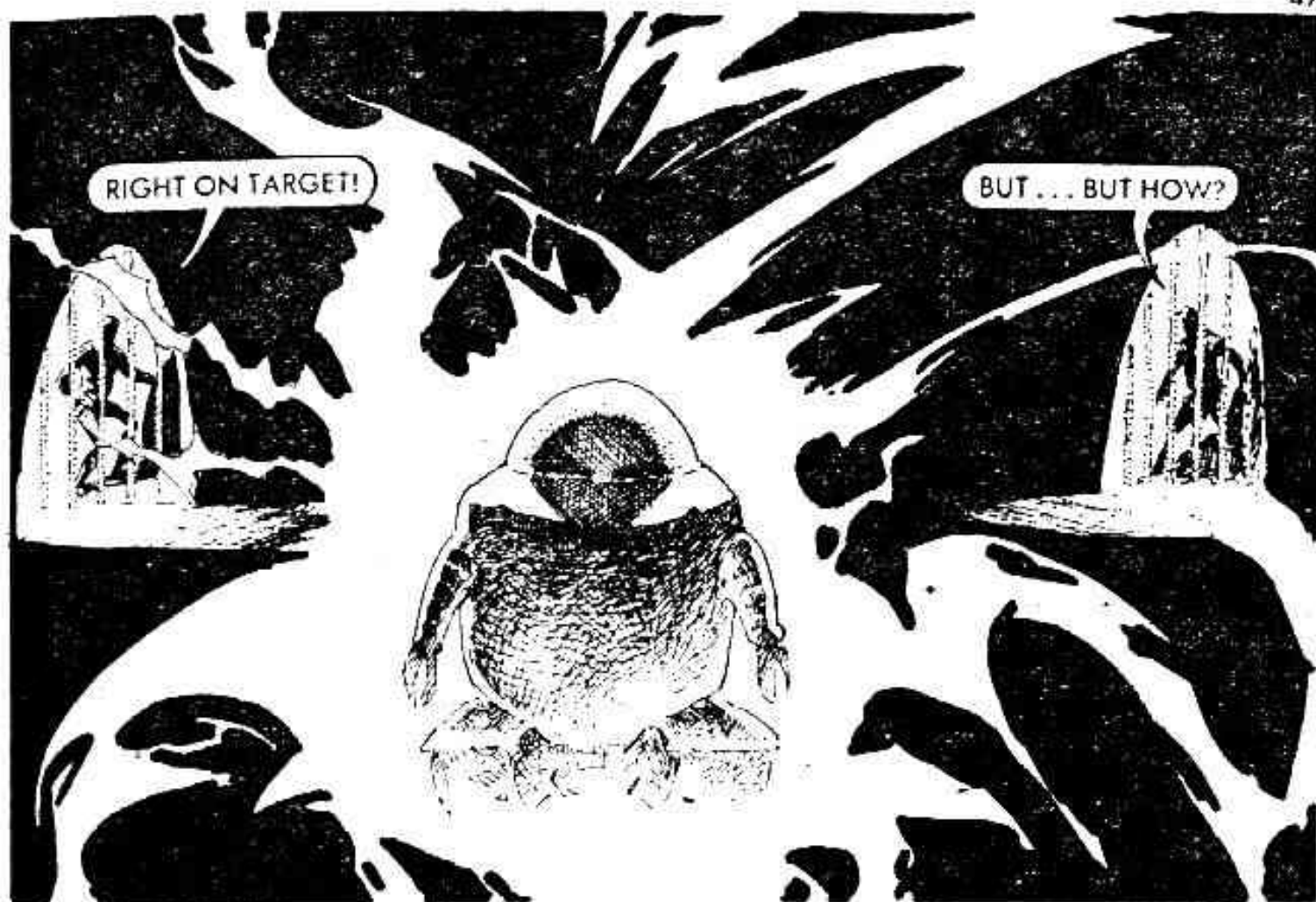
THE ENGINES—WE MUST  
BE GETTING UNDERWAY.

QUICK MOBCOM! LOCK ONTO  
MY SIGNAL AND TRANSMIT  
YOURSELF ABOARD BEFORE  
WE GET OUT OF RANGE!

ACKNOWLEDGED

IN THE ALIEN CRUISER, MOBCOM BEGAN TO DEMATERIALISE.





IMMEDIATELY AN ALARM WENT OFF ON THE CONTROL DECK.

SUPREME COMMANDER,  
SOMETHING HAS DESTROYED  
ONE OF THE FORCE FIELDS ON  
THE SECURITY DECK.

QUINN IS TRYING TO ESCAPE!  
ALERT ALL GUARDS.

LOOK OUT!









THEY ARE ON THE HANGAR  
DECK. LOCK ALL OUTER DOORS!

MAKE FOR THE NEAREST STAR-  
FIGHTER—AND PRAY THAT IT'S  
FUELLED UP AND READY FOR TAKE  
OFF!



MOBCOM, BURN THE DOORS!



BUT I CAN'T LEAVE THE  
NEUTRALISING SHIELD —  
IT'S THE ONLY  
PROTOTYPE.

UNDER THE FULL POWER OF MOBCOM'S BLASTER  
A JAGGED HOLE APPEARED IN THE OUTER DOORS  
AND THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE HANGAR BEGAN  
TO RUSH OUT INTO SPACE.


WE MUST GET IN THERE  
BEFORE THE WHOLE DECK  
DEPRESSURISES!

QUINN, HERSCHEL AND MOBCOM  
CLIMBED INTO THE STARFIGHTER AS  
THE ANDROMEDAN TROOPS WERE  
SUCKED INTO THE VACUUM OF  
SPACE.

HANG ON, THIS IS  
GOING TO BE ROUGH!

THE STARFIGHTER LIFTED AND SHOT OUT INTO SPACE.

WE MADE IT!







THE WARSHIP IS REVERSING  
COURSE TO COME AFTER US

ARE WE CLEAR YET?



NOT YET... THEY'VE LAUNCHED MORE  
STARFIGHTERS AFTER US. WE SHOULD BEAT  
THEM TO THE STAR CLUSTER, BUT MAN  
THE GUN DOME JUST IN CASE...





THE STARFIGHTERS SCREAMED INTO THE STAR CLUSTER.




ONE DOWN!

HOLD THEM OFF JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER, WE'RE NEARLY THERE!

THE NEXT INSTANT THEY WERE BACK AMONG THE WRECKED SPACESHIPS.



QUINN MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING ON THE ALIEN CRUISER AND THE TWO ANDROMEDAN STARFIGHTERS OVERTOOK HOPELESSLY



EVERYBODY OUT BEFORE THOSE  
TWO GOONS COME BACK.

HERSCHEL HAD  
STRUGGLED INTO AN  
ILL-FITTING  
ANDROMEDAN  
SPACE SUIT.

MOBCOM'S BEEN HIT!



LEAVE THE ROBOT...


NO, I NEED HIM.

MOBCOM WAS DRAGGED TO SAFETY.

WE'RE SAFE FOR THE MOMENT, UNTIL  
THEY START TO SEND IN TROOPS AGAIN.



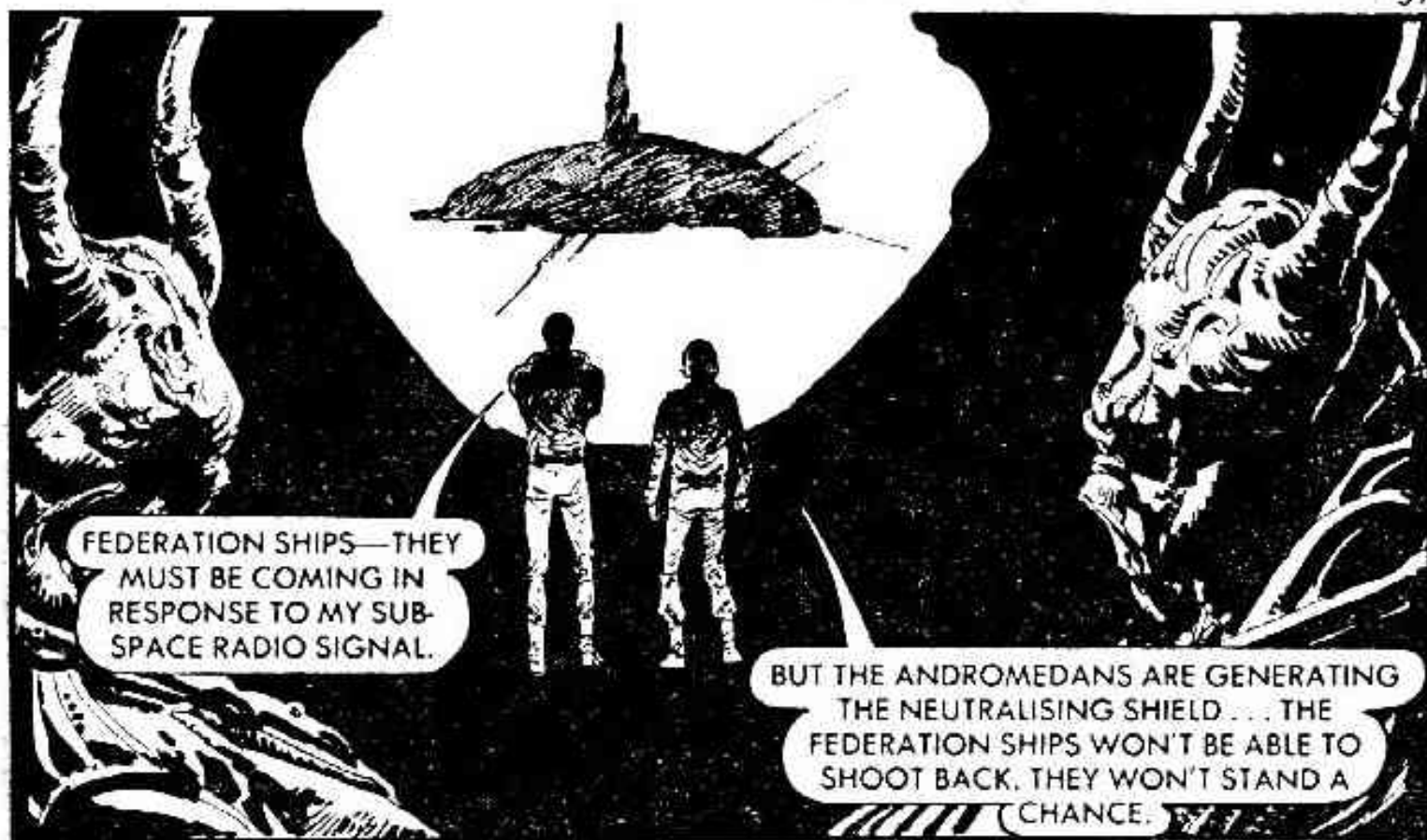
AT THAT MOMENT ABOARD THE ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP.



COMMANDER, OUR  
SENSORS HAVE PICKED UP  
TWO APPROACHING  
FEDERATION BATTLESHIPS.

PREPARE TO ENGAGE IN BATTLE  
ACTIVATE THE NEUTRALISING SHIELD.





FEDERATION SHIPS—THEY  
MUST BE COMING IN  
RESPONSE TO MY SUB-  
SPACE RADIO SIGNAL.

BUT THE ANDROMEDANS ARE GENERATING  
THE NEUTRALISING SHIELD... THE  
FEDERATION SHIPS WON'T BE ABLE TO  
SHOOT BACK. THEY WON'T STAND A  
CHANCE.



THEY WILL IF WE CAN HELP... MOBCOM,  
HOW BADLY ARE YOU DAMAGED?

PRIMARY WEAPONS BANKS  
DESTROYED, ALL OTHER FUNCTIONS  
NOW OPERATIVE AGAIN.

HE TOOK THEM DOWN TO THE STORE ROOM HE HAD FOUND EARLIER.

WHAT IS IT?

IT'S A THERMONUCLEAR WARHEAD  
OF SOME KIND. HELP ME LIFT IT,  
MOBCOM.

IN SPACE, A DEADLY BATTLE WAS IN PROGRESS

THE ANDROMEDAN'S FIRST ATTACK  
DESTROYED ONE OF THE FEDERATION  
BATTLESHIPS. FINDING ITS WEAPONS  
NEUTRALISED, THE OTHER TOOK EVASIVE ACTION.



BACK IN THE CRUISER, QUINN AND MOBCOM HAD CARRIED THE WARHEAD TO THE PARTICLE TRANSMITTER.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I'M GOING TO USE THE PARTICLE TRANSMITTER TO PLACE THIS WARHEAD INSIDE THE ANDROMEDAN SHIP. ACTIVATE THAT VIDEOSCREEN, WILL YOU?

IF THE WARHEAD EXPLODES INSIDE THE WARSHIP, THE NEUTRALISING SHIELD SHOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON IT ...

QUINN SET THE CONTROLS AND JUMPED DOWN FROM THE PLATFORM.

THE WARHEAD DEMATERIALISED.



AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, ABOARD THE ANDROMEDAN SHIP.



THE FEDERATION BATTLESHIP  
IS IN RANGE AGAIN...

FIRE!



BUT THE WARHEAD MATERIALISED AND EXPLODED ABOARD THE ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP.



IT WORKED! THERE SHE GOES...

INCREDIBLE! THIS DEVICE COULD BE  
OF IMMENSE VALUE TO THE  
FEDERATION.


QUINN ALTERED THE CONTROLS OF THE VIDEOSCREEN AND ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH  
THE FEDERATION BATTLESHIP.

GOOD TO SEE YOU ALIVE. WE  
THOUGHT WE'D LOST YOU.

I'VE GOT HERSCHEL HERE WITH ME.  
WE'RE COMING OVER. PREPARE THE  
BRIDGE TO RECEIVE US.







THE BRIDGE . . . BUT HOW?

YOU'LL SEE IN A FEW  
SECONDS. QUINN OUT.

QUINN TOOK WITH HIM, NOT ONLY THE KNOWLEDGE OF HERSCHEL'S PROTOTYPE SHIELD, BUT ALSO THE SECRET OF THE ALIEN PARTICLE TRANSMITTER, A DEVICE THAT WOULD TIP THE SCALES OF WAR IN THE FAVOUR OF THE FEDERATION AND END THE THREAT OF THE ANDROMEDAN EMPIRE FOR GOOD.





**NOW THAT YOU'VE READ  
THIS**



**DON'T  
FORGET  
THAT  
THERE'S  
ANOTHER  
ONE THIS  
MONTH**

**IT'S ON SALE IN  
YOUR NEWSAGENT'S NOW!**





# **STARBLAZERS**

**IN THE CONQUEST OF SPACE 47**

In August 1977 Voyagers I and II were launched on a trajectory to Jupiter and Saturn. Spectacular photos of Jupiter were obtained in 1979 and Saturn will be visited in 1981. In 1986 Voyager II will make the first visit to Uranus.